IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph on page 5, between lines 25-31 of the specification with the following:

After manufacture, the cutting element is kept in a pulsed nitriding furnace at 375°C. for 20 hours in 475 Pa nitrogen gas pressure, during which the nitriding takes place. With an average thickness of the lamella of around 70 µm this results in a compound layer of around 10 to 20 µm. As can be seen in the schematic representation in FIG. 6, the diffusion zones just touch substantially at the center of the diffusion layer where the original hardness of the steel is 200HV, compared to a hardness of 1500 HV of the compound layer. As shown in FIG. 6, the top layer has a substantially uniform hardness and the diffusion layer has a continuously decreasing hardness with depth of the diffusion layer, where the continuously decreasing hardness of the diffusion layer continuously decreases from outer portions of the diffusion layer toward a center of the diffusion layer and meets at the center of

the diffusion layer to form a minimum peak at the center, and where a hardness at the center of the diffusion layer is an original hardness the stainless steel, namely 200HV. In the case of 1RK91 steel, the hardness of originally 500 HV has been increased to 1500 HV on the outside of the compound layer. Also the Young modulus increases in the compound layer by 23%, rising from 177 GPa to 217 GPa.